

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 84ISLAMA011293

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 11293 230605Z
ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
10-15 NEA-06 NSAE-00 HA-08 PA-01 OMB-01 USIE-00
SP-02 SR-06 PRS-01 /063 W

P 230603Z MAY 84
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5978
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 11293

DEPT FOR RP/ASIA AND NEA/PAB

E.D. 12356: OARD:GDS
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, PK, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANS IN PAKISTAN: VOLUNTARY
REPATRIATION, NOT REFDOULEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 126256

2. (LOU) ON APRIL 21 THE DAILY MUSLIM REPORTED THE
INCIDENT WHICH APPARENTLY INSPIRED THE FBIS BROADCAST
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 11293 230605Z

AS FOLLOWS. UNDER HEADING QUOTE AFGHAN OFFICIALS
HANDLED BACK TO KABUL AUTHORITIES UNQUOTE. BEGIN
TEXT. PESHAWAR, APRIL 20: THIRTY-SEVEN AFGHAN
ASKARIS AND OTHER OFFICIALS WERE HANDLED OVER BY THE
PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES TO THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT REP-
RESENTATIVES AT TORKHAM THIS AFTERNOON.

THESE AFGHAN OFFICIALS WERE AMONG THOSE WHO ARE SAID
TO HAVE FLED ACROSS THE BORDER AND SOUGHT PROTECTION

PAGE NO. 1

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARCHIVES
REVISED BY *h* DATE *4/2/86*
4 in part 1. 3a 579

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1634

IN PAKISTAN FOLLOWING THE RECENT FIGHTING BETWEEN THE AFGHAM MUJAHIDEEN AND THE KABUL FORCES CLOSE TO THE TORKHAM-JALALABAD ROAD. SOME OF THE AFGHANS, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL SOURCES, HAD EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN WHILE THE OTHERS HAD ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO STAY ON IN PAKISTAN AS REFUGEES. ACCORDINGLY, THOSE WISHING TO RETURN WERE ALLOWED TO DO SO AND HANDED OVER TO THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES.

THEY WERE RECEIVED ACROSS THE BARRIER BY A BRIGADIER AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND GUNSHOTS WERE FIRED IN THE AIR AS THEY STEPPED ONTO THE AFGHAN SOIL. END TEXT.

ACCORDING TO THE PAKISTAN TIMES OF APRIL 22, NINE AFGHANS (OF THE THIRTY-SEVEN) REFUSED TO GO BACK TO AFGHANISTAN AND WERE ALLOWED TO STAY IN PAKISTAN. PAKISTAN TIMES STATED QUOTE THE REPATRIATED AFGHANS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY KARMAL GOVERNMENT AND WERE BEING INTERROGATED, ACCORDING TO A REPORT REACHING HERE FROM ACROSS THE BORDER. END QUOTE.

COMMENT: UNHCR STATES THAT THE NUMBERS REPORTED CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 11293 230605Z

IN THE PRESS ARE WRONG: 40 CAME AND 37 DECIDED TO RETURN. ONLY 3 AND NOT 9, AS REPORTED, REMAINED IN PAKISTAN. END COMMENT.

3. (LOU) ACCORDING TO BOTH UNHCR AND GOP SOURCES (CONFIRMED BY CONSULATE PESHAWAR) IN DECEMBER A GROUP OF 40 AFGHANS CROSSED INTO PAKISTAN AT THE BORDER AT TORKHAM FOLLOWING FIGHTING IN NEARBY PARTS OF AFGHANISTAN. OF THIS GROUP, THE MAJORITY (37) DECIDED VOLUNTARILY TO GO BACK TO AFGHANISTAN IN APRIL, WHICH EVENT WAS DULY REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. THREE REMAINED IN PAKISTAN. SEE 83 PESHAWAR 1359, 1371, AND 1384. PESHAWAR 521.

4. (C) COMMENT. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR GROUPS OF AFGHANS TO COME INTO PAKISTAN AFTER FLARE-UPS OF FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN, ONLY TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN LATER. WHAT IS UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS CASE IS THAT THE PEOPLE WERE ESSENTIALLY
OR A MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND NOT REFUGEES. THEY MIGHT HAVE COME INTO PAKISTAN VOLUNTARILY, TO ESCAPE INJURY IN AN INCIDENT AT THE TORKHAM BORDER CROSSING, OR COULD HAVE BEEN HAULED OVER BY THE MUJAHIDIN. END COMMENT. RATTRAY

1635

PAGE NO. 2

1636